

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04554 081849Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-13
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /084 W
-----090239Z 119231 /64

R 081812Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1732
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 4554

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT EGEN PO
SUBJECT: SOARES TELLS HIS SIDE: PART II

REF: LISBON 4500 (DTG 071724Z JUN 77)

1. PRIME MINISTER SOARES ADDRESSED NATION AND RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS FROM TWO REPORTERS DURING LONG TV SESSION EVENING OF JUNE 7 (EMBASSY ASSUMES FBIS PROVIDING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE). SOARES BROACHED VIRTUALLY SAME POINTS COVERED EARLIER IN THE DAY IN HIS "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" INTERVIEW (REFTEL). SOARES'S OPENING STATEMENTS DESCRIBING PORTUGAL'S PROGRESS UNDER SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERSHIP WERE CLEARLY DESIGNED AS RESPONSES TO RECENT OPPOSITION
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CRITICISM. HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED LEGITIMACY, AS SHOWN BY ITS PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT AND LACK OF AN ASSEMBLY CENSURE, AND RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS GIVEN POLITICAL/ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS. PS GOVERNMENT, HE MAINTAINED, WILL CONTINUE TO WORK IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR PASSAGE OF PENDING MAJOR LEGISLATION, CONFIDENT THAT OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL PLACE NATIONAL INTEREST ABOVE

NARROW PARTISAN OBJECTIVES.

2. MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON FOREIGN CREDITS TO AND INVESTMENTS IN PORTUGAL. PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT INVESTMENT CLIMATE HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT SEVERAL FOREIGN FIRMS WHICH HAD THREATENED TO CEASE OPERATIONS WERE ACTUALLY EXPANDING THEIR INVESTMENTS. HE SINGLED OUT ITT (SEE SEPTEL). SOARES CLOSELY ALIGNED PRESTIGE AND VIABILITY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION ON SECURING THE MUCH DISCUSSED "LARGE" FOREIGN LOAN. AT ONE POINT HE STATED THAT NO OTHER GOVERNMENT COULD SECURE THE MASSIVE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WHICH HIS ADMINISTRATION HAD OBTAINED. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE "LARGE" LOAN WOULD MATERIALIZE. THIS CONFIDENCE BASED ON ANNOUNCED USG AND FRG LOAN INTENTIONS AS WELL AS ON INTEREST EXPRESSED BY VENEZUELA AND SEVERAL SCANDANAVIAN COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE. MOREOVER, HE NOTED, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DEMONSTRATED HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING PORTUGAL BY WRITING TO SEVERAL HEADS OF STATE. PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTITUDE, HE STATED, STEMS IN LARGE PART FROM PORTUGAL'S EXCELLENT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

3. PRIME MINISTER UNDERSTANDABLY PRESENTED RATHER OPTIMISTIC PICTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. REAL TEST OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUCCESS, HOWEVER, WILL BE IN ITS ABILITY TO OBTAIN ASSEMBLY APPROVAL FOR MAJOR PENDING LEGISLATION.

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, EGEN, PO, (SOARES, MARIO ALBERTO NOBRE LOPEZ)
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